

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 ISO-00

CG-00 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AEC-11

ACDA-19 AGR-20 DOTE-00 CIEP-03 FMC-04 INT-08 CEA-02

OMB-01 OIC-04 AID-20 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11

EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEA-02 DRC-01 /297 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5635

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 8482

FROM US DEL LOS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: LOS: STRAITS DISCUSSIONS WITH ALGERIA

1. US REP MOORE AND DELEGATION MEMBERS MORRIS, AND DUGGER MET WITH ALGERIAN DELREPS MESLOUB AND BENCHEIKH TO DISCUSS ALGERIAN STRAITS POSITION, PARTICULARLY THEIR ARTICLES SPECIFYING TRANSIT REGIME FOR STRAITS LEADING TO SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS AS FREE TRANSIT FOR MERCHANT SHIPS, INNOCENT PASSAGE FOR WAR-SHIPS. MESLOUB EXPLAINED THAT DRAFT ARTICLES RESULTED FROM COMBINATION OF GEORGRAPHIC NEED FOR GOOD STRAITS REGIME ON ONE HAND AND NEED TO MAINTAIN SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH MOROCCO ON OTHER. FOLLOWING MOORE'S DETAILED EXPLANATION OF PROBLEMS WITH THEIR ARTICLES, THEY SAID THAT THOUGH SYMPATHETIC TO OUR NEEDS, ARTICLES WERE CONCEIVED IN CONTEXT OF REGIME OF VERY LIMITED APPLICABILITY, AND THEIR INSTRUCTIONS WERE INFLEXIBLE. THEY SEEMED UNFAMILIAR WITH SUBMERGED TRANSIT PROBLEM AND FELT OVERFLIGHT SHOULD BY DEALT WITH IN ICAO RATHER
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THAN LOS. MESLOUB SUGGEETED SOLUTION TO GIBRALTAR PROBLEM BY

AGREEMENT THAT TERRITORIAL SEA WOULD BE 3 MILES IN STRAITS,
12 MILES ELSEWHERE.

2. ON ALGERIAN INITIATIVE, QUESTION OF THEIR ISLANDS DISCUSSED.
IBIZA, MALLORCA, MINORCA, AND SARDINIA, BELONGING TO OTHER
STATES, SUBTRACT SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THEIR ECONOMIC ZONE,
A LOSS OF OVER ELEVEN THOUSAND SEUARE MILES AS COMPARED TO
ECONOMIC ZONE DRAWN ALONG MEDIAN LINES BETWEEN CONTINENTS.
THEIR NARROW SHELF MAKES ECONOMIC ZONE FOR LIVING RESOURCES
IMPORTANT. THEY HAD NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS BUT DECLARED THEY
WOULD SEEK NEW METHODS OF DELIMITATION TO INSURE EQUITY.
COMMENT: ALGERIAN SUPPORT OF FREE TRANSIT REGIME FOR MERSHIPS
AND ALGERIAN EMPHASIS ON LIMITED APPLICABILITY OF THEIR ARTICLES,
AS WELL AS A PRIVATE CONVERSATION ON A SEPARATE OCCASION
PREDICTING FRRE TRANSIT AS ULTIMATE OUTCOME, INDICATE THAT
ALGERIA WILL PROBABLY ACCEPT FREE TRANSIT FOR WARSHIPS AND
AIRCRAFT IF TIRAN PROBLEM SOLVED, BUT WILL BARGAIN FOR MORE
FAVORABLE REGIME FOR ISLAND DELIMIATION.
STEVENSON

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